

Remarks/Arguments

This paper is in response to the Office Action of December 6, 2006. The due date for response is March 6, 2007. Independent claims 1 and 8 have been amended to further distinguish the claimed invention from the cited reference. The current status of the claims are summarized herein.

Claims 1 and 8 have been amended to further distinguish the claimed invention.

Claim 22 has been newly added.

Claims 2-3, 7, 9-10, 13 - 21 have been cancelled.

Claims 1, 4-6, 8, 11-12, and 22 are pending upon entry of this amendment. The amendments do not introduce new matter.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. section 101:

Claims 1, 4-8, 11-12, 14-15, 18-19 and 21 were rejected as they were directed to a non-statutory subject matter. Claims 1 and 8 have been amended to direct the claims to a statutory subject matter. Based on the amendment, the Applicants respectfully request the 101 rejection be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. section 103:

Claims 1, 4-8, 11-12, 14-15, 18-19 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schneider et al. (Schneider), U.S. Patent No. 6,785,728. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1 and 8 were amended to provide more clarity to the claim language. Particularly, claims 1 and 8 were amended to include the limitations of claims 7 and 14 respectively, which clarifies the role of administering a class to include storing an account state for a user including the user's work at a terminal and routing the account state related to the user to a second terminal when the user logs onto the second terminal. Claim 22 has been newly added to capture another embodiment of the invention described in independent claims 1 and 8.

Schneider discloses a method for decentralizing administration of access filters to access data through internet and intranet. According to Schneider, a built-in administrative policy gives a built-in administrative user group called the security officers the right to make access policy for all objects in the system. The members of the security officer user group, in turn, delegate rights to other administrative user groups to make administrative policy to all the objects. Thus, the administrative responsibility in Schneider is shared over a plurality of levels of users. (*See column 6, lines 37-56*). With the decentralization of responsibilities, the structure of Schneider can cause confusion in deciding which administrator is responsible for administering access control to a user group as the administrator at the higher level may be able to administer access policies to not only their own user groups but also to user groups' subsets of user groups. (*See column 6, lines 30-36*). As a result, any change to access control to access objects made at any level has to be properly propagated to all levels in order to allow access to appropriate objects.

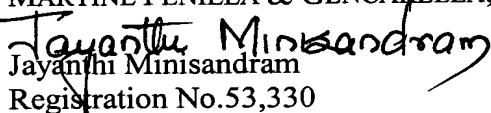
In contrast, the claimed invention describes one level of administrators with each of the administrators only responsible for their own assigned task groups. The claimed invention performs this by distributing administrative tasks among the group of administrators by dividing the administrative tasks into task groups and assigning task groups, comprising common needs of discrete and separate subset of users, to administrators for executing the administrative tasks such that each administrator is assigned an equal number of task groups to administrate. Each administrator is only responsible for his own task group. This ensures that the administrative responsibilities are distributed to a plurality of administrators with each administrator responsible only for his own set of administrative tasks and users. By distributing the administration responsibilities to a plurality of administrators, decentralization of administrative role is accomplished while maintaining a level of order in delegation of administrative responsibilities.

As the Examiner has pointed out, Schneider does not suggest or teach the administrators being teachers of students, wherein the students are users of a system. Therefore, it would not be

obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to apply the teachings of Schneider to arrive at the claimed invention as amended. Schneider, additionally, does not suggest or teach storing an account state for a user including the work of the user at a terminal and routing the account state related to the user to a second terminal when the user logs onto the second terminal. The account state referred to in Schneider is the state of a user account with reference to a user group. There is no mention of storing the work of a user at a terminal in the accounting state of that user and routing this account state to a second terminal when the user logs onto the second terminal. As can be seen, Schneider does not suggest or teach each and every element of the claimed invention. Based on the arguments presented, the Applicants request the Examiner to withdraw the 103(a) rejection on claims 1 and 8.

Claims 4-6 and 11-12 are dependent on the amended independent claims. Based on the argument presented for the independent claims 1 and 8, the Applicants submit that the dependent claims 4-6 and 11-12 are allowable and request the 103(a) rejection be withdrawn.

With these clarifications, the Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, a notice of allowance is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions concerning the present Amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at (408) 774-6905. If any additional fees are due in connection with filing this Amendment, the Commissioner is also authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-0805 (Order No. SUNMP582). A duplicate copy of the transmittal is enclosed for this purpose.

Respectfully submitted,
MARTINE PENILLA & GENCARELLA, LLP

Jayanthi Minisandram
Registration No. 53,330

710 Lakeway Drive, Suite 200
Sunnyvale, CA 94086
Telephone: (408) 774-6911
Facsimile: (408) 749-6901
Customer No. 32291